

Sleuthing Along the Mother Road: Route 66 Mysteries



ILLINOIS

Jim Butcher

- Harry Dresden: the only wizard listed in yellow pages in Chicago, Illinois

Robert Campbell

- Jimmy Flannery: sewer inspector and Democratic precinct captain in Chicago, Illinois

Charlotte Carter

- Cassandra Lisle: college student in late-1960s Chicago, Illinois, in the Cook County mysteries

Dave Case

- Stacey MacBeth: cop in Chicago, Illinois

Sean Chercover

- Ray Dudgeon: former newspaper reporter turned private investigator, in Chicago, Illinois

Jill Churchill

- Jane Jeffry: suburban housewife and sleuth in Chicago, Illinois

Max Allan Collins

- Nate Heller: 1930s ex-cop turned private eye in Chicago, Illinois

Michael Craft

- Mark Manning: gay journalist in Chicago, Illinois

Barbara D'Amato

- Suze Figueroa and Norm Bennis: a pair of cops in Chicago, Illinois, in the Chicago Police series
- Cat Marsala: freelance investigative journalist in Chicago, Illinois

William Diehl

- Martin Vail: defense attorney in Chicago, Illinois

Michael Allen Dymmoch

- John Thinnies: a cop, and Jack Caleb, a gay psychiatrist, in Chicago, Illinois

P. N. Elrod

- Jack Fleming: 1930s reporter turned vampire in Chicago, Illinois

Sharon Fiffer

- Jane Wheel: was laid off from her advertising job and is working as an antique picker to make ends meet in Chicago, Illinois

Jack Fredrickson

- Vlodak "Dek" Elstrom: private investigator with a failed marriage and battered reputation, in Chicago, Illinois

Joseph Glass

- Dr. Susan Shader: psychiatrist and criminal profiler in Chicago, Illinois

Bill Granger

- Terry Flynn and Karen Kovac: special squad detectives in Chicago, Illinois

Andrew M. Greeley

- Nuala Anne McGrail: young Irish immigrant, psychic and singer in Chicago, Illinois
- Father John Blackwood "Blackie" Ryan: Catholic priest in Chicago, Illinois

Gini Hartzmark

- Kate Millholland: attorney in Chicago, Illinois

Michael Harvey

- Michael Kelly: ex-cop private investigator, in Chicago, Illinois

Libby Fischer Hellmann

- Georgia Davis: ex-cop private investigator, in Chicago, Illinois
- Ellie Foreman: recently divorced suburban mom who makes video documentaries in Chicago, Illinois

Hugh Holton

- Larry Cole: police commander in Chicago, Illinois

James Patrick Hunt

- Evan Maitland: former police detective, now running an antique business and moonlighting as a bounty hunter, based in Chicago, Illinois

Fred Hunter

- Jeremy Ransom: homicide detective, and Emily Charters, his adopted grandmother, in Chicago, Illinois

Stuart M. Kaminsky

- Abe Lieberman: 60-something Jewish police detective in Chicago, Illinois

Thomas Laird

- Jimmy Parisi: lieutenant in the Homicide Division, Chicago Police Department, in Chicago, Illinois

Ralph M. McNerny

- Father Roger Dowling: St. Hilary's parish priest in Fox River, Illinois

Catherine O'Connell

- Pauline Cook, a widowed socialite and world traveller, in Chicago, Illinois, in the High Society series

Sara Paretsky

- V. I. Warshawski: attorney turned private eye in Chicago, Illinois

Mary Monica Pulver (Monica Ferris)

- Peter Brichter: police detective, and Kori Price Brichter, a horse breeder, in Illinois

Monica Quill (Ralph M. McNerny)

- Mary Teresa Dempsey: 5'2" 200 lb. nun in Chicago, Illinois

Michael Raleigh

- Paul Whelan: 40-something cop turned private investigator in Chicago, Illinois

Sam Reaves

- Cooper MacLeish: taxi driver and Vietnam vet in Chicago, Illinois

Edith Skom

- Beth Austin: English professor at Midwestern University in 1940s Illinois

Denise Swanson

- Skye Denison: school psychologist in Scumble River, Illinois

David J. Walker

- Dugan: lawyer in Chicago, Illinois
- Malachy P. Foley: jazz piano-playing private investigator in Chicago, Illinois
- Kirsten, owner of the Wild Onion, Ltd, a private detective agency in Chicago, Illinois

John Wessel

- Harding: unlicensed private investigator in Chicago, Illinois

Michael Wiley

- Joe Kozmarski: private investigator in Chicago, Illinois

MISSOURI

Joel Goldman

- Lou Mason: attorney in Kansas City, Missouri

Janis Harrison

- Bretta Solomon: 40-something owner of the Flower Shop in River City, Missouri, in *The Gardening Mysteries*

James Patrick Hunt

- George Hastings: police lieutenant in St. Louis, Missouri

Suzann Ledbetter

- Hannah Garvey: former advertising executive managing the upscale Valhalla Springs retirement community in the Missouri Ozarks

Lise McClendon

- Dorie Lennox: new private investigator in Kansas City, Missouri

Lou Jane Temple

- Heaven Lee: trendy restaurant owner-chef in Kansas City, Missouri

Elaine Viets

- Josie Marcus: undercover store spy in St. Louis, Missouri, in the *Mystery Shopper* series

KANSAS

James Preston Girard

- *The Late Man*: Three people descend into a maelstrom of confusion and terror when they investigate a brutal murder in Kansas.

J.M. Hayes

- *Mad Dog*: part Cheyenne half-brother to English, known as Englishman, a divorced, single-father sheriff of Benteen County, in Buffalo Springs, Kansas

Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child

- *Still Life with Crows*: When the farm community of Medicine Creek, Kansas, is terrorized by a series of disturbing murders, FBI agent Pendergast discovers a link between a moonshine operation and an unsolved killing from more than 150 years earlier.

Charlene Weir

- Susan Wren: police chief in Hampstead, Kansas

OKLAHOMA

William Bernhardt

- Ben Kincaid: attorney in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Donis Casey

- Alafair Tucker: matriarch of a large family in the early 1900s, in rural Oklahoma

Jean Hager

- Molly Bearpaw: major crimes investigator and advocate for the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- Mitch Bushyhead: police chief in Buckskin, Oklahoma

Fred Harris

- Okie Dunn: sheriff in 1930s Vernon, Oklahoma

Carolyn Hart

- Bailey Ruth Raeburn, who dies during a storm and then returns as a ghost to help solve crime in her hometown of Adelaide, Oklahoma

Jim Lehrer

- One-eyed Mack: the Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma

Mardi Oakley Medawar

- Tay-bodal: 19th century Kiowa healer in Oklahoma

William Sanders

- Taggart Roper: a freelance writer, living in a trailer with his dog, and moonlighting as a petty criminal, in Oklahoma

TEXAS

Jeff Abbott

- Whit Mosley: judge in Texas

Nancy Bell

- Biggie Weatherford: a grandmother, and J.R. Weatherford, her grandson, in Job's Crossing, Texas

James Lee Burke

- Billy Bob Holland: attorney and former Texas Ranger in Deaf Smith, Texas

Bill Crider

- Dan Rhodes: laid-back sheriff with a motley crew of deputies in Blacklin county, Texas

Robert Fate

- Kristin (Baby Shark) Van Dijk: seeking revenge for the murder of her pool hustler father, in west Texas

Chloe Green

- Dallas O'Connor: freelance fashion stylist in Texas

L.C. Hayden

- Harry Bronson: police detective in Dallas, Texas

Harry Hunsicker

- Lee Henry Oswald: Gulf War vet, loner, and private investigator, in Dallas, Texas

Lee Martin (Anne Wingate)

- Deb Ralston: police detective mom in Fort Worth, Texas

Susan McBride

- Andrea "Andy" Kendricks: 30-something artist who backed out of her formal debut when she was eighteen to mother Cissy's dismay, in Dallas, Texas

D.R. Meredith

- John Lloyd Branson: attorney in Texas
- Megan Clark: reference librarian and a member of the murder mystery reading group, Murder by the Yard in Amarillo, Texas
- Charles Matthews: sheriff in Crawford County, Texas

Laurie Moore

- Cezanne Martin: cop in Fort Worth, Texas

Barbara Burnett Smith

- Kitzi Camden: 50-ish beader and former senator, in Texas
- Jolie Wyatt: radio station reporter and aspiring writer in Purple Sage, Texas

Doug J. Swanson

- Jack Flippo: private investigator in Dallas, Texas

Howard Swindle

- Jeb Quinlin: homicide investigator and recovering alcoholic, in Dallas, Texas

Mary Willis Walker

- Mollie Cates: true crime writer and reporter, in Texas

Livia J. Washburn

- Phyllis Newsom: elderly amateur sleuth and pie expert, in Weatherford, Texas, in the Fresh-Baked mysteries

NEW MEXICO

Rudolfo Anaya

- Sonny Baca: part-time rodeo rider private eye in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sandi Ault

- Jamaica Wild: resource-protection agent for the Bureau of Land Management, in northern New Mexico

Steve Brewer

- Drew Gavin: an Albuquerque Gazette sports columnist in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Bubba Mabry: a private investigator in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Cecil Dawkins

- Ginevra Prettifield: art museum assistant director, in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Micah S. Hackler

- Cliff Lansing, single-father and part-time rancher-sheriff and Gabe Hanna, his deputy in New Mexico

Steven F. Havill

- Bill Gastner: insomniac undersheriff in Posadas County, New Mexico
- Estelle Reyes-Guzman: the new undersheriff in Posadas County, New Mexico

Tony Hillerman

- Jim Chee: Navajo tribal police officer in the southwest USA
- Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn: Navajo tribal police officer in the southwest USA

B. Reece Johnson

- Cordelia Morgan: lesbian hit artist turned sleuth, in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado

Sarah Lovett

- Sylvia Strange: a forensic psychologist in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Michael McGarrity

- Kevin Kerney: ex-chief of detectives in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Lisa Miscione

- Lydia Strong: a true crime author in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Kirk Mitchell

- Emmett Quannah Parker, a part-Comanche, part-white Bureau of Indian Affairs agent, and Anna Turnipseed, a part-Modoc, part-Japanese FBI special agent, in New Mexico and elsewhere

Barbara Moore

- Gordon Christy: a veterinarian and Gala in New Mexico

Jake Page

- Connie Barnes: an Anglo-Hopi girlfriend to a P.I. in Santa Fe, New Mexico
- T. Moore “Mo” Bowdre: a blind redneck sculptor in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Walter Satterthwait

- Joshua Croft, wise-cracking PI in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Aileen Schumacher

- Tory Travers: a structural engineer in Las Cruces, New Mexico

Connie Shelton

- Charlie (Charlotte) Parker: a Certified Public Account in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Susan Slater

- Benson (Ben) Pecos, a 26-year-old Tewa Pueblo and a reservation medical investigator in New Mexico

Richard Martin Stern

- Johnny Ortiz: half-Apache, half-Chicano police lieutenant, around Santa Fe, New Mexico

Pari Noskin Taichert

- Sasha Solomon: a public relations director in New Mexico

Aimee and David Thurlo

- Sister Agatha: a former investigative journalist, now one of the extern sisters, the convent’s link to the outside world at the Our Lady of Hope Monastery in New Mexico
- Ella Clah: Navajo FBI agent in Shiprock, New Mexico
- Lee Nez: a nightwalker (vampire) police officer in New Mexico

Judith Van Gieson

- Neil Hamel: attorney and investigator, in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Claire Reynier: buyer of rare books for the University of New Mexico library in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mari Privette Ulmer

- Christine Garcia y Grant: an ex-lawyer running a bed and breakfast in Taos, New Mexico in the Taos Festival Mysteries

Robert Westbrook

- Howard Moon Deer: a private investigator in San Geronimo, New Mexico

Stuart Woods

- Ed Eagle: lawyer in Santa Fe, New Mexico

ARIZONA

Garrison Allen

- Penelope Warren: ex-Marine mystery bookstore owner in Empty Creek, Arizona

Sarah Atwell (Sheila Connolly)

- Emmeline (Em) Dowell: glassblower, in Tucson, Arizona, in the Glassblowing mysteries

Deb Baker

- Gretchen Birch, her mother Caroline, and her aunt Nina, doll collectors in Phoenix, Arizona, in the Dolls To Die For mysteries

Sinclair Browning

- Trade Ellis: ex-cheerleader and rancher in Arizona

David Cole

- Laura Winslow: a Hopi-born computer programmer and hacker in Arizona

J. A. Jance

- Joanna Brady: deputy sheriff's widow turned sheriff in Cochise County, Arizona
- Alison Reynolds: a 40-something ex-newscaster and new "pajama-clad blogger" in Sedona, Arizona

Jayne Ann Krentz

- Zoe Luce: a psychic interior decorator in Whispering Springs, Arizona

Annette Mahon

- Maggie Browne: a widow and a member of the St. Rose Quilting Bee in Scottsdale, Arizona

James C. Mitchell

- Roscoe Brinker: former INS agent, now a private investigator, in Tucson, Arizona

Richard Parrish

- Joshua Rabb: Jewish lawyer in late 1940s and early 1950s working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and privately, in Tucson, Arizona

Jon Talton

- David Mapstone: ex-cop, now unemployed college history teacher back in law enforcement, in Phoenix, Arizona

Beth Thornton

- Chloe Newcomb: victims advocate in Cochise County, Arizona

Betty Webb

- Lena Jones: of Desert Investigations in Scottsdale, Arizona

CALIFORNIA

Jennifer Apodaca

- Samantha Shaw: suburban housewife and soccer mom in Southern California

Noreen Ayres

- Samantha “Smokey” Brandon: forensic pathologist in Orange County, California

Dan Barton

- Biff Kincaid: stand-up comedian turned amateur sleuth in Los Angeles, California (right below the Hollywood sign)

Karen Grigsby Bates

- Alex (Alexa) Powell: African-American newspaper columnist in Los Angeles, California

Paul Bishop

- Fey Croaker: a 40-something homicide cop in Los Angeles, California

Meredith Blevins

- Annie Szabo: writer and mother, and Madam Mina, a fortune-teller and head of Annie’s late husband’s gypsy clan, in California

Alistair Boyle

- Gil Yates: private investigator, alias Malvin Stark, a nerdy, unsuccessful real estate agent in Los Angeles, California

Jan Burke

- Irene Kelly: newspaper reporter in southern California

James Calder

- Bill Damen: filmmaker turned sleuth in Santa Clara, California

Robert Campbell

- Whistler: sentimental private eye in Hollywood, California

Stephen J. Cannell

- Shane Scully: police sergeant in Los Angeles, California

Taffy Cannon

- Roxanne Prescott: in Williamsburg, Virginia, and then San Diego, California

Raymond Chandler

- Philip Marlowe: private eye on the “mean streets” of Los Angeles, California

Leonard Chang

- Allen Choice: Korean-American Silicon Valley investigator in Los Angeles, California

Carol Higgins Clark

- Regan Reilly: private eye in Los Angeles, California

Jennifer Colt

- Kerry and Terry McAfee: twin fledgling investigators in Southern California

Michael Connelly

- Harry Bosch: homicide detective in Los Angeles, California
- Mickey Haller: lawyer in Los Angeles, California
- Terry McCaleb: former FBI man recuperating from a heart transplant, in Los Angeles, California

Bruce Cook (Bruce Alexander)

- Antonio “Chico” Cervantes: private eye in Los Angeles, California

Elizabeth Cosin

- Zen Moses: private investigator and cancer survivor in Santa Monica, California

Michael Craft

- Claire Gray: theatrical director in Palm Springs, California

Robert Crais

- Elvis Cole and Joe Pike: pair of Hollywood private eyes in Los Angeles, California

Laura Crum

- Gail McCarthy: veterinarian in the Santa Cruz Equine Practice, in Santa Cruz, California

E.V. Cunningham

- Masao Masuto: private investigator in Beverly Hills, California

Catherine Dain

- Faith Cassidy: actress-turned-therapist, in Los Angeles, California

Christopher Darden

- Nicolette (Nikki) Hill: 30-something black prosecutor in Los Angeles, California (by Dick Lochte and Christopher Darden)

Janet Dawson

- Jeri Howard: private investigator in Oakland, California

John DeCure

- J. Shepard: lawyer who surfs in Christianitos, California

Kathleen Delaney

- Ellen McKenzie: newly certified real estate agent returning to her old hometown of Santa Louisa, California

Robert Ellis

- Lena Gamble: young police detective just promoted to the elite Robbery-Homicide Division, in Los Angeles, California

James Ellroy

- Lloyd Hopkins: detective sergeant in Los Angeles, California

Robert Eversz

- Nina Zero: smart, sexy photographer in California

Terence Faherty

- Scott Elliott: 1940s failed actor turned PI in Hollywood, California

Jerrilyn Farmer

- Madeline Bean: caterer in Hollywood, California

Elaine Flinn

- Molly Doyle: antique dealer in Carmel, California

Rebecca Forster

- Josie Baylor-Bates: criminal defense lawyer in greater Los Angeles, California, in the Witness series

Earlene Fowler

- Albenia “Benni” Harper: ex-rancher and folk art museum curator in San Celina, California

Gwen Freeman

- Fifi Cutter: bi-racial, 20-something, freelance insurance investigator, in Los Angeles, California

Scott Frost

- Alex Delillo: police detective lieutenant in Pasadena, California

Erle Stanley Gardner

- Perry Mason: defense attorney in Los Angeles, California (series continued by Thomas Chastain)

Alison Gaylin

- Simone Glass: reporter for the tabloid “Asteroid” in Hollywood, California

Tony Gibbs

- Neal Donahoe: Harbor Patrol Officer in Santa Barbara, California

Hal Glatzer

- Katy Green: violin player in the Ultra Belles, an all-girl swing band in 1940s California

Lee Goldberg

- Charlie Willis: ex-cop turned studio security agent, in Los Angeles, California

Leonard S. Goldberg

- Joanna Blalock: forensic pathologist in Los Angeles, California

Sue Grafton

- Kinsey Millhone: private eye in Santa Teresa, California

Kate Green

- Theresa Fortunato: tarot-reading psychic, and Oliver Jardine, a police detective, in Los Angeles, California

Denise Hamilton

- Eve Diamond: reporter for the LA Times, in Los Angeles, California

William Harrington

- Columbo: homicide detective in Los Angeles, California

Will Harriss

- Cliff Dunbar: former English professor turned private investigator, in Los Angeles, California

Gar Anthony Haywood

- Aaron Gunner: black private investigator in Los Angeles, California

Randall Hicks

- Toby Dillon: adoption attorney in California

Naomi Hirahara

- Mas Arai: Japanese-American Hiroshima survivor, gardener in Los Angeles, California, and sleuth

Wendy Hornsby

- Maggie MacGowan: documentary filmmaker in Los Angeles, California

Jonnie Jacobs

- Kate Austen: single mother in Walnut Hills, California
- Kali O'Brien: attorney in Gold Country, California

Sue Ann Jaffarian

- Odelia Grey: plus-sized, middle-aged paralegal, in southern California

Michael Joens

- Sandra Cameron: detective in Los Angeles, California

Linda O. Johnston

- Kendra Ballantyne: attorney and freelance pet sitter in Los Angeles, California

Cady Kallian

- Maggie Mars: struggling screenwriter and former investigative journalist, in Los Angeles, California

Stuart M. Kaminsky

- Toby Peters: 1940s Hollywood PI in Los Angeles, California
- James Rockford: low-rent detective in Los Angeles, California

Susan Kandel

- Cece Caruso: 40-something biographer of dead mystery writers and fan of vintage fashions, in Southern California

Marshall Karp

- Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs: police detectives in Los Angeles, California

Faye Kellerman

- Rina Lazarus: wife of LAPD detective in Los Angeles, California

Jonathan Kellerman

- Petra Connor: cop in Los Angeles, California
- Alex Delaware: child psychologist in Los Angeles, California

Andrew Klavan

- Scott Weiss: ex-cop owner of Weiss Investigations, and Jim Bishop, an operative at Weiss Investigations with a penchant for violence and a mysterious military past, in San Francisco, California

Harley Jane Kozak

- Wollie Shelley: greeting-card artist in Los Angeles, California

Rochelle Krich

- Molly Blume: true-crime writer in Los Angeles, California
- Jessie Drake: homicide detective in Los Angeles, California

Mercedes Lambert

- Whitney Logan: 20-something attorney in Los Angeles, California

Kelly Lange

- Maxi Poole: reporter for a large television station in Los Angeles, California

Josh Lanyon

- Adrien English: mystery writer and bookseller in Los Angeles, California

Janet La Pierre

- Port Silva mysteries, coastal California

Lynda La Plante

- Lorraine Page: down-on-her-luck ex-cop in Los Angeles, California

Martha Lawrence

- Dr. Elizabeth Chase: Stanford-trained parapsychologist turned P.I. in San Diego, California

Elmore Leonard

- Chili Palmer: entertainment entrepreneur in Los Angeles California

Laura Levine

- Jaine Austin: freelance writer in Los Angeles, California

Robert S. Levinson

- Neil Gulliver: former newspaper crime reporter, and former spouse Stevie Marriner, a soap opera star, in Los Angeles, California

Sheila Lowe

- Claudia Rose: handwriting analyst, in Los Angeles, California

Ross MacDonald

- Lew Archer: ex-cop and private eye in Los Angeles, California

Lindsay Maracotta

- Lucy Freers: children's film animator in Los Angeles, California

Steve Martini

- Paul Madriani: defense attorney in California

Cody McFadyen

- Smoky Barrett: FBI agent who was badly scarred by a serial killer, in Los Angeles, California

G. A. McKeve

- Savannah Reid: ex-cop and owner of a new detective agency in southern California

Claire McNab

- Kylie Kendall: lesbian manager of a pub in tiny Wollegudgerie, Australia inherits 51% of her father's private detective agency in Los Angeles, California

Judy Mercer

- Ariel Gold: amnesiac television newsmagazine producer in Los Angeles, California

Marlys Millhiser

- Charlie Greene: female literary agent in Hollywood, California

Walter Mosley

- Socrates Fortlow: philosophical ex-con in California
- Easy Rawlins: black WWII veteran living in 1940s–1950s Los Angeles, California
- Paris Minton: Watts bookstore owner, and the dangerous but principled Fearless Jones, in 1950s Los Angeles, California

William Murray

- Shifty Lou Anderson: professional magician and horseplayer in southern California

Michael Nava

- Henry Rios: gay criminal defense lawyer in Los Angeles, California

Maxine O'Callaghan

- Delilah West: private investigator in Orange County, California

Denise Osborne

- Queenie Davilov: struggling screenwriter and investigator in Hollywood, California

Abigail Padgett

- Barbara Joan "Bo" Bradley: former court investigator, who works as an advocate for the mentally ill and lives with her own manic-depression, in San Diego, California
- Blue McCarron: independent social psychologist and private investigator living outside San Diego, California

Robert B. Parker

- Philip Marlowe: private eye on the "mean streets" of Los Angeles, California

T. Jefferson Parker

- Merci Rayborn: deputy in the Orange County, California's Sheriff's Department

Don Pendleton

- Joe Copp: private investigator in Hollywood, California

Richard Prather

- Shell Scott: 6'2" ex-Marine private investigator in Los Angeles, California

Michael Prescott

- Abby Sinclair: freelance security consultant who hunts stalkers, and Tess McCallum, FBI special agent, in Los Angeles, California

Dianne G. Pugh

- Iris Thorne: investment counselor in Los Angeles, California

Philip Reed

- Harold Dodge: 50-ish, overweight former car salesman, in Los Angeles, California

Linda L. Richards

- Madeline Carter: former stockbroker in New York, turned day trader in Los Angeles, California
- Kitty Pangborn: secretary to private eye Dexter J. Theroux, in 1930s Los Angeles, California

Les Roberts

- Saxon: actor and private eye in Los Angeles, California

Lora Roberts

- Liz Sullivan: freelance writer and organic gardener in Palo Alto, California

Nancy Taylor Rosenberg

- Lily Forrester: Assistant District Attorney in Southern California
- Carolyn Sullivan: part-time law student and overworked probation officer in Ventura County, California

Rebecca Rothenberg

- Claire Sharples: microbiologist in the San Joaquin Valley, California

Stephen Santogrossi

- Tim Ryder: carpenter in Palm Springs, California

Corinne Holt Sawyer

- Angela Benbow and Caledonia Wingate: 70-something admirals' widows, in southern California

Barbara Seranella

- Munch Mancini: 1970s ex-druggie and jailbird in Los Angeles, California

Dell Shannon (Elizabeth Linington)

- Luis Mendoza: lieutenant in the Los Angeles Police Department in California

John Shannon

- Jack Liffey: private investigator in Los Angeles, California

Shari Shattuck

- Callaway (Cally) Wilde: wealthy socialite, and LAPD detective Evan Paley, in Los Angeles, California

Roger L. Simon

- Moses Wine: private investigator in Los Angeles, California

Elizabeth Sims

- Rita Farmer: aspiring actress and single mother, in Los Angeles, California

Michael Siverling

- Victoria and Jason Wilder: mother and son private investigator team in River City, California

Kit Sloane

- Margot O'Banion: a film editor, and Max Skull, a movie director, based in Los Angeles, California

Patricia Smiley

- Tucker Sinclair: 30-something divorcee and financial adviser, in Los Angeles, California

April Smith

- Ana Grey: FBI agent in California

Keith Snyder

- Jason Keltner: composer and ex-spy in Los Angeles, California

Reed Stephens

- Mick “Brew” Axbrewder: unlicensed private investigator in Puerta del Sol, California

Joseph Telushkin

- David Winter: rabbi in West LA (Los Angeles), California

Terri Thayer

- Dewey Pellicano: who inherits her mother’s quilt shop Quilter Paradiso, in San Jose, California, in the Quilting mysteries

L.L. Thrasher

- Lizbet Lange: heiress and ex-waitress in California

Ayelet Waldman

- Juliet Applebaum: public defender turned stay-at-home mom in Los Angeles, California

Nathan Walpow

- Joe Portugal: actor and plant lover in Los Angeles, California

Penny Warner

- Connor Westphal: newspaper publisher in Flat Skunk, California

Betty Webb

- Theodora “Teddy” Bentley: zookeeper living on a houseboat on the central coast of California, in the Zoo mysteries

Melinda Wells (Linda Palmer)

- Della Carmichael: owner of a cooking school and star of “Della Cooks,” a cable TV cooking show, in Santa Monica, California

Robert Westbrook

- Nicky Rachmaninoff: reluctant cop, divorced father, and jazz pianist, in Beverly Hills, California, in the Left-Handed Policeman mysteries

John Morgan Wilson

- Benjamin Justice: gay crime reporter and writer in Los Angeles, California

Paula L. Woods

- Charlotte Justice: black woman homicide detective in Los Angeles, California

Stuart Woods

- Rick Barron: head of security at the Centurion Movie Studio, in 1939 Los Angeles, California

Edward Wright

- John Ray Horn: former B-movie cowboy star and ex-con turned debt-collector, in 1940s Los Angeles, California